

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Honduras
Program Title:	Improved Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	522-ddd
Status:	New
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,850,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2003
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2008

Summary: The USAID program in democracy and governance will focus on: a) enhancing the rule of law by providing technical assistance to increase judicial efficiency and quality, strengthening professional legal associations and training institutions, and promoting transparency and accountability; b) improving the effectiveness and accountability of local government by providing technical assistance to increase municipal administrative capacity and municipal ability to undertake decentralization initiatives; c) increasing citizen participation in political and social decision making by providing technical assistance and grants to civil society organizations and community groups; and d) increasing confidence in political processes by providing technical assistance to the legislature, political parties and electoral reforms.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

The new strategy will consolidate two previous strategic objectives into a more comprehensive democracy objective. Contracts and grants have not yet been competed.

Municipal capacity (\$2,000,000 DA). USAID plans to continue its support of decentralization and municipal capacity building through technical assistance and training activities as notified under strategic objective 522-007. Technical assistance incorporating new market-based mechanisms, such as vouchers municipalities can use among a variety of qualified providers, will support development of reliable service providers. The goal of USAID's assistance is to expand municipal governments' capabilities to execute their core functions including finance and accounting, service provision, property tax collection, and citizen participation.

FY 2004 Program:

Criminal Procedures Code implementation and strengthening of justice sector institutions (\$2,200,000 DA). A new activity will begin in FY 2004 to address critical weaknesses of judicial sector institutions by: improving court administration; improving police/prosecutor relations; strengthening professional associations; and training judges, public defenders, legal professionals, and law students. USAID also plans to support merit-based selection in the judiciary and related institutions. USAID will apply its successful experience with criminal court administration to the civil courts, and pilot court activities will support the development of innovative models that can be replicated throughout the court system. Resources will be devoted to the newly created Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court to strengthen constitutional justice in Honduras. To strengthen the justice sector's position within the government structure, USAID will provide the Congress and political parties with more sophisticated information regarding issues such as separation of powers, judicial review, and the constitutional structure of government.

Municipal capacity (\$2,350,000 DA). In addition to continuing activities from the previous year, specialized technical assistance may also be required to provide support in new technical areas (e.g., identifying and recovering costs for services, transfer of new taxes to municipalities for collection, and larger role in provision of water and sanitation, education, and health services). Financial and accounting

systems have already been introduced in some municipalities, and follow-on efforts will support their effective implementation and replication in other municipalities. A small grants program will support innovation and pilot decentralization efforts in a number of technical areas, such as municipal management, water and sanitation service provision, and economic development. Grants would be made available on a competitive basis to municipalities or other local groups for financing small initiatives directly related to local priorities and newly decentralized authorities.

Civil society (\$1,100,000 DA). USAID plans to provide support to the civil society sector to increase capacity and sustainability and expand advocacy activities. Activities now implemented by the Federation of Private Development Organizations of Honduras will continue expanding to include other partners. The focus will be on justice sector reform and monitoring, human rights, transparency, electoral reform, and public immunities. In addition, USAID may provide equipment, training, and technical assistance to the Commissioner for Human Rights. USAID expects to continue to support development of the Association of Municipalities of Honduras and the Foundation for Municipal Development, which have both evolved into credible, influential actors in the public policy debate on decentralization and provision of technical services to municipalities. Assistance will help build their capacity to promote decentralization and municipal strengthening and help them become sustainable over the long term. With evolving decentralization of authority and financial resources in new technical areas, USAID may support other constituencies (e.g., the independent municipal ombudsman, water commissions, development corporations, and decentralized health care and education workers) to continue to expand the pluralistic representation of common local interests in national and regional debates.

Open and competitive political processes (\$200,000 DA). USAID plans to commence an activity in coordination with other donors to modify the electoral framework in a way that makes the congressional body more accountable to its electorate. USAID also plans to work with the Honduran Congress to strengthen the committee system and parliamentary procedures, and to provide for more transparent decision making. USAID is considering providing technical assistance to political parties with emphasis on developing principle-based platforms, strengthening internal democratic practices, and increasing responsiveness to constituents.

Performance and Results: This new strategic objective is scheduled to begin in late FY 2003 and therefore has no results to report at this time.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Honduras

522-ddd Improved Democracy and Governance	DA
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2002	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	2,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	2,000
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	5,850
Future Obligations	42,702
Est. Total Cost	50,552